

## Article



### *Know Series*

Choosing the Right  
Project Manager for a  
Successful Project

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Choosing the right Project Manager can be one of the most difficult parts to planning any project. With so many different firms competing for your project how do you choose the one that is right for you? There isn't one single factor that will determine who the best Project Manager will be for you but rather several factors you will want to consider when choosing one. The following offers you several considerations you may want to keep in mind during your search for the perfect Project Manager.

Managing you, the client, is perhaps the most intricate part of the Project Managers responsibility. You as the client must be able to trust that the Project Manager has your projects best interest in mind, however the Project Manager's must also have the ability to work comfortably with you as well. To a large extent, this comfort and trust may determine their ability to meet your project objectives.

The first step in working successfully with you is for the Project Managers to learn as much as they can about you and your organization. A Project Manager needs to know who makes – and influences – project decisions. Next, who is responsible for scope, quality, schedule, and budget. Third a Project Manager should know who has the authority to modify the contract. And finally, who is approving their services and evaluating their performance.

Once this has been established, then you need to evaluate the Project Manager on the next level. The best Project Manager for your project will be someone who is responsible for managing a team of diverse people. Because this individual will be responsible for balancing design schedules and budgets to best meet your needs, you will want to find someone who will be the key person responsible for managing the project's progress towards it's time, cost, and quality goals.



Also, remember that Project Managers face many challenges which may include meeting and surpassing *your* expectation. Their first responsibility is to identify your expectation and help you met those needs. Secondly they must be able to get things done for you and in a timely manor. Finally the Project Manager must be able to meet the goals established by everyone involved. This included both schedule and budget.

Finally when selecting your Project Manager, these are a few traits and abilities to look for. First, are they *organized*? Can they organize, direct, and control all key aspects of the project? Are they enthusiastic about achieving your goals and achieving a high standard of quality?

Your Project manager needs to be able to *communicate* well both within the team and to those outside of it. Can they *motivate* their team to meet project goals and do they delegate responsibilities when appropriate? Project Managers should have a conscious sense of time, knowing what it takes to accomplish a task and how much time is left to finish the whole project.

Project Managers should be able to *listen* well and be able to interpret clearly the opinions and issues all members of the team may have. They need to know that it takes a team to accomplish outstanding results and give credit to the whole group for a job well done.

You want your Project Manager to aggressively attack each problem as though it is of utmost importance to the projects success. They need to be persuasive, and know where to find the answers for technical and managerial problems if they cannot answer their selves. Once you have found a project manager who meets these standards you can proceed with your project and be confident of its success.